



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

May 14, 2021

The Honorable Casten N. Nemra  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Republic of the Marshall Islands  
P.O. Box 2  
Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960

The Honorable Kessai H. Note  
Minister of Justice, Immigration & Labor  
Republic of the Marshall Islands  
P.O. Box 2  
Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960

Dear Ministers Nemra and Note:

I am writing as a follow-up to the letter from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), dated January 19, 2021, responding to your September 24, 2020, letter to the Honorable Martin Heinrich and the Honorable Deb Fischer, United States Senators, expressing your concerns regarding DOE's June 2020 Report on the Status of the Runit Dome in the Marshall Islands. The Secretary has asked me to reply on her behalf.

With regard to the question of responsibility for the Runit Dome, and in consultation with the U.S. Department of State, we would like to underscore that the terms of the Compact of Free Association, as amended, its subsidiary agreements, including the Section 177 agreement, and the U.S. position regarding those bilateral agreements remain unchanged. DOE's recent monitoring activities of the Cactus Crater have been provided voluntarily by the U.S. government to the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) as a matter of U.S. domestic law pursuant to Public Law 112-149, Insular Areas Act of 2011.

We remain committed to helping the Government of the RMI to improve the health and safety of the people of the RMI as relates to the effects of past nuclear weapons testing, consistent with U.S. domestic law and relevant international agreements between the United States and the RMI.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (202) 586-6740 or via e-mail at [todd.lapointe@hq.doe.gov](mailto:todd.lapointe@hq.doe.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TL', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Todd N. Lapointe  
Deputy Associate Under Secretary  
Office of Environment, Health,  
Safety and Security

cc: The Honorable Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator

The Honorable Deb Fischer  
United States Senator

His Excellency Gerald Zackios  
RMI Ambassador to the United States of America

Her Excellency Roxanne Cabral  
U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of the Marshall Islands